Meyerson, B 1  Mon, Wed 1-2;  Fri  1–3

ARCHITECT AND HISTORY

Human experience is shaped by the built environment. This course introduces students to the interrelated fields of architecture, art history, and engineering and explores great architectural monuments from the ancient to the modern period, from India across the Mediterranean and Europe to the US. The focus will be on understanding these works in their structure and function, both as products of individual ingenuity and reflections of Zeitgeist. Questioning these monuments from a present-day perspective across the cultures will be an important ingredient, as will be podium discussions, guest lectures, excursions, and all kinds of visualizations, from digital walk-throughs to practical design exercises. No prerequisites.

Regularly taught in fall term, this course fulfills the Arts&Letters general requirement and is approved as a pilot course. It replaces the former ArtH 101 introductory course and satisfies History of Art 100-level course requirements.

COURSE STRUCTURE

week 1 Sep. 7, 9: 'Ancient vs. Modern' – structural elements and principles; comparing and contrasting (key approach); the 'right angle' to look at architecture
• PARthenon, Athens (Iktnos, 5th c.BC); cf. NASHVILLE PARthenon (W.Creighton, 1920s)
• Villa Savoye, near Paris (LeCorbusier, ca.1930); cf. Farnsworth House, near Chicago (Mies v.d.Rohe, ca.1950)
* reading: Stuart and Revett, Antiquities of Athens (1762 ff.), esp. intro to vol.1
* basic reading throughout: The Annotated Arch!

week 2 Sep. 12, 14, 16: 'Post-and-Lintel, Vault and Dome' – tectonic and dynamic systems, visible and 'hidden' forces; our analytical tools: observing, sketching, verbalizing
- **PANTHEON**, Rome (2nd c.AD) vs. **PARTHENON**

  * reading: Vitruvius, *De architectura* (ca. 25 BC), esp. book 1,1-3, books 3 & 4

  * reading: LeCorbusier, *Vers une architecture* (1922)

**Friday Special** (9/16): excursion to **SECOND BANK Building** (Strickland, ca.1820), Philadelphia

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**week 3**

Sep. 19, 21, 23: *Structure vs. Surface* – body building vs. metaphysical architecture; perceptions of buildings; stereometry, stereotomy

- **PANTHEON** vs. **HAGIA SOPHIA**, Constantinople (Anthemios and Isidoros, 6th c.AD)

  * reading: Procopius, *De aedificiis* (6th c.AD) – handout

**Friday Special** (9/23): discussion of *De architectura* vs. *Vers une architecture* announcing: 1-page assignment

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**week 4**

Sep. 26, 28, 30: *Language of Architecture* – trabeated vs. arcuated; playing with the orders; color as articulation; code and de-coding

- **ATTALOS STOA**, Athens (ca.150 BC)
- **COLOSSEUM**, Rome (70s AD)
- **CANCELLERIA**, Rome (1480s-90s); **Pal. RUCELLAI**, Florence (Alberti, 1440-50s)
- **St.PETER's**, Rome (cupola: Michelangelo, 1540-60s)

  * reading: Summerson, *Classical Language*

**Friday Special** (9/30): excursion to **GIRARD TRUST Building** (McKim etc, 1900s) and **FINE ARTS ACADEMY** (Furness, 1870s), Philadelphia, with questionnaire "Experiencing Space"

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**week 5**

Oct. 3, 5, 7: *Classic vs. Gothic* – a counter-classic system, immaterialising matter (cf. Hag.Sophia); 'flying' buttresses

- **NOTRE DAME**, Paris (1160s-1240s)
- **REIMS cathedral**, near Paris (1210 ff.)
- **BEAUVAIS cathedral**, near Paris (1220s ff.–1600s)

  * reading: Villard d'Honnecourt, *Carnet* (1220s/30s)

  * reading: O'Gorman, *ABC of Architecture*

**Friday Special** (10/7): film on **AMIENS cathedral**, near Paris (1220s-80s)

announcing: architectural sketch (2 pg.)
week 6  Oct. 10, 12: 'Periods, and -isms' – taste, style, epoch; continuity, discontinuity, and revival; the 'primitive hut'
  • LORSCH, gate hall, Germany (770s); PALATINE CHAPEL, Aachen (ca.800)
    Carolingian – re-connecting with Roman Antiquity
    cf. CAIROUAN, GREAT MOSQUE, Tunisia (770s–830s)
  • ST.MICHAEL, Hildesheim (1000-30s)
    Romanesque – the 'Roman' style
  • S. GIORGIO MAGGIORE, Venice (Palladio, 1560s ff.)
    Renaissance – Antiquity reborn
  • S. CARLO (4 Fount.), Rome (Borromini, 1630s-60s)
    Baroque – Antiquity twisted
  • S. SULPICE (façade), Paris (Servandoni, 1730s-50s)
    Neo-Classicism – Antiquity 'truly' revived: back to basics!


no Friday class (10/14): to be made up

fall break, 10/15–18

week 7  Oct. 19, 21: 'Periods and -isms' – continued; the 'leading task' of building
  • PIAZZA d'ITALIA, New Orleans (Moore, 1970s)
    Post-Modernism – 'forbidden' plays (with Antiquity)
  • 'PLAIN HOUSING', Amsterdam (Koolhaas, ca.1990)
    Deconstructivism – 'chaotic' plays: back to basics!
  • BILBAO Museum, Spain (Gehry, 1990s)
    hmm, where are we at this point?

* reading: *NewsWeek* article on Koolhaas – handout

Friday (10/21): Midterm Exam
announcing: 4-page paper ('First Paper')

week 8 Oct. 24, 26, 28: 'How To ...' – plans and planning of buildings
  • DIDYMA, Temple of Apollo, Turkey (3rd c.BC); PANTHEON; COLOGNE CATHEDRAL (1250s ff.–19th c.)

* reading: *Sc.American* article on Pantheon – handout

Friday Specials (10/28): rope-laying "shaping a square" *(Practicum I)*;
film on BILBAO Museum

week 9 Oct. 31, Nov. 2, 4: Statics vs. Aesthetics – building from scratch; proportion and module; transmission of design; role of treatises
• The 'Primitive Hut'
• Polykleitos' *Canon* (5th c.BC)
• Le Corbusier's *Modulor* (1950s)
• Palladio, *Quattro libri dell'architettura* (1570);
  cf. Alberti (1485), Serlio (1537 ff.), Vignola (1562)

* reading: Pollitt's article on Polykleitos – handout
* reading: Palladio, *Quattro libri*

**Friday Special** (11/4): excursion to PMA, Philadelphia (Borie, Trumbauer, and Zantzinger, 1910s-20s)

**week 10**  
Nov. 7, 9, 11: 'Curves, Arches, and Cupolas' – intended 'deviations' and refinements; catenary and structural engineering; constructing domes and rescuing them

• DIDYMA (*entasis* curve)
• 'ST.PETER'S' (rescue operations: Poleni, *Memorie istoriche della gran cupola del tempio Vaticano*, 1748)
• ST.PAUL'S, London (Wren, 1670s-1700s)
• SAGRADA FAMILIA, Barcelona (Gaudi, 1903–pres.)
• PALAZZETTO / PALAZZO DEL SPORT, Rome (Nervi, 1950s/ ca.1960)

* reading: *Sc.American* article on Didyma – handout
* reading: Poleni, *Memorie*

**Friday Special** (11/11): constructing a curve (*Practicum II*)
announcing: 5-page paper ('Second Paper')

**week 11**  
Nov. 14, 16, 18: 'Naissance of Renaissance' – emergence and evolution of a period

"structure and emulation, not style --> Renaissance"
• VITRUVIUS' rediscovery (ca.1420, St.Gall); Vitruvian Man (DaVinci, 1480s)
• FOUNDLING HOSPITAL, Florence (Brunelleschi, ca.1420)
• S.MARIA DEL FIORE, Florence: cupola (ca.1420 started, Brunelleschi);
  cf. MILAN cathedral (1380s-1480s, with Cesariano)
• S.PIETRO IN MONTORIO, Rome (Bramante, ca.1500)
• ST. PETER'S, Rome (Bramante, Michelangelo, and Della Porta, 16th c.)
• VILLA ROTONDA, Vicenza (Palladio, 1550s-90s)

"Baroque – twisted Renaissance"
• BALDACHINO, St.Peter's (Bernini, 1620-30s)
• ST. PETER'S PIAZZA, Rome (Bernini, 1650s-60s)
• S.AGNESE (Borromini, 1650s, completing Rainaldi); S. CARLO (4 Fount.)

* reading: King, *Brunelleschi's Dome*
**Friday Special (11/18):** Van Pelt, Rare Book Library (Vitruvius, Desgodetz, Borromini, Haviland)

**week 12**  
Nov. 21, 23: *'East of West'—Ottoman and Indian Classics*

*Early and Classical Ottoman Turkey*
- **Green Mosque**, Isnik (1370s-90s)
- **Hagia Sophia**
- **Sehzade Mosque**, Istanbul (Sinan, 1540s)
- **Süleymaniye**, Istanbul (Sinan, 1550s)
- **Selimiye**, Edirne (Sinan, 1560s-70s)

*Mogul architecture in India*
- **Taj Mahal**, Agra (1630s-40s)
- **Gol Gumbad**, Bijapur (ca.1660s)

*  reading: Rybczynski, *Look of Architecture*

**Thanksgiving break, 11/24–27**

**week 13**  
Nov. 28, 30, Dec. 2: *'19/20th c. Ambivalences'—continuations, 'affinities', and revolutions; Modern vs. Classic, or 'Modern Classic'?*

- **PMA**, Philadelphia
- **Academy Building**, Athens (Hansen, 1850s-60s)
- **Parliament**, Vienna (Hansen, 1870s-80s)
- **Altes Museum**, Berlin (Schinkel, 1820s)
- **Werder Church**, Berlin (Schinkel, 1820s)
- **Bauakademie**, Berlin (Schinkel, 1830s)
- **British Museum**, London (1820s ff., facade 1840s, reading rm.1850s +1990s by Foster)
- **Crystal Palace(s)**, London and Sydenham (Paxton, 1850s)
- **AEG Turbine Factory**, Berlin (Behrens, 1900s)
- **German Embassy**, St.Petersburg (Behrens, 1910s)
- **Weissenhof** house, Stuttgart (Behrens, 1920s)
- **Park Guell**, Barcelona (Gaudi, 1900s-10s)
- **Sagrada Familia**
- **Casa Mila** (La Pedrera), Barcelona (Gaudi, 1900s)
- **German Pavilion**, Barcelona (Mies v.d.Rohe, 1920s)
- **Farnsworth Hs.**
- **National Gallery**, Berlin (Mies, 1960s)
- **AT&T Building**, N.Y. (Johnson, 1970-80s)

**Friday Special** (12/2): Grand review

**week 14**

Dec. 5, 7, 9: 'Urban Context' – city planning in old and new worlds

- PHILADELPHIA (orig. plan: Penn, 1680s; B.FRANKLIN PARKWAY 1900s-20s, final design: Gréber, 1910s)
- NEUF-BRISACH, Alsace (Vauban, ca.1700)
- PALMANOVA, Italy (Scamozzi, ca.1600)
- NEW HAVEN (nine-square, 1630s)
- BOSTON (18th c., 'grown city)
- NEW YORK (18th/19th c. ('grown' and 'gridded' city, esp. Commissioner's Plan, 1811)
- WASHINGTON, D.C. (L'Enfant, 1790s, cf. VERSAILLES: LeNotre, 1660s-80s)
- CHANDIGARH, India (LeCorbusier, 1950s)
- BRASILIA, Brasil (Costa and Niemeyer, 1950s ff.)
- ATLANTIS-project (Krier, 1980s ff.)

**Friday Special** (12/9): excursion to PSFS BUILDING, Philadelphia (Howe and Lescaze, 1930s) – NB: extra time until 4 pm!

**final exam** scheduled by the registrar, 12/14–21; *happy winter!*

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**PREREQUISITS**

- regular attendance, incl. all excursions and practica
- homework readings, sketchings, and (short) writings
- keeping notebook (ungraded, yet checked)
- intensive slide study (web-site)

**PAPERS**

- 1-page paper  
  ungraded, but must be accepted
- architectural sketch (plan, section, or elevation: 2 pg.) with explanatory notes (1 pg.)  
  ungraded, but must be accepted
- 4-page paper (with additional sketches and illustrations)  
  25%
• 5-page paper (with additional sketches and illustrations) 25%

EXAMS
• mid-term exam 25%
• final exam 25%

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NB! Absence from the exams due to athletic commitments will not be granted under any circumstances!

Missed practica (I-II) must be made up and presented!

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BIBLIOGRAPHY (preliminary)

* note-book (letter size, blank pages, hard cover): mandatory! $10.–

• recommended to buy (available at BOOK CENTER, 34th St.)

* C. Strickland, The Annotated Arch (Kansas City 2001). $24.95
* Le Corbusier, Towards a New Architecture (1922; N.Y. 1986). $11.95
* R. King, Brunelleschi’s Dome (N.Y. 2000). $13.–

• special aspects (on reserve, Fisher FA Library)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Edition/Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brunelleschi’s Dome</td>
<td>R. King</td>
<td>(N.Y. 2000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The International Style</td>
<td>H.-R. Hitchcock and P. Johnson</td>
<td>(N.Y. 1966)</td>
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<td>Space, Time, and Architecture</td>
<td>S. Giedion</td>
<td>(1941; Cambridge, Mass. 1967)</td>
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<td>Carnet de Villard de Honnecourt</td>
<td>A. Erlande-Brandenburg et al.</td>
<td>(Paris 1986)</td>
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<td>The Architecture of McKim, Mead, and White</td>
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<td>The Masterbuilders: Le Corbusier, Mies van der Rohe, Frank Lloyd Wright</td>
<td>P. Blake</td>
<td>(N.Y. 1976)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memorie istoriche della gran cupola</td>
<td>G. Poleni</td>
<td>(1748 (reprint))</td>
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<td>Modulor</td>
<td>Le Corbusier</td>
<td>(Engl. transl., 2000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Town Planning in Frontier America</td>
<td>J. Reps</td>
<td>(Princeton 1969)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Experiments in Gothic Structure</td>
<td>R. Mark</td>
<td>(......)</td>
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<td>A Dictionary of Architecture</td>
<td>N. Pevsner et al.</td>
<td>(Woodstock 1976)</td>
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